



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The "mystic" force, although it is the most important of all, is left appropriately shrouded in mystery. The author says of a certain M. Kostyleff: "I am very much afraid that he, as well as the many persons who still share his views, have no clear idea of what we are to understand by the term mysticism" (p. 167). The reader of this book finds himself in the same predicament. The only statement remotely resembling a definition is the statement that "generally speaking, one may say that mysticism is characterized by a taste for mystery (!), love of the supernatural, contempt of experience, and a belief that superior powers intervene in mundane phenomena" (p. 37). Among the "chief factors of the great conflicts of humanity," he cites "the mystic factors," such as "those forces which hurled the Arabs upon the Roman Empire," *etc.* So far it might appear that mysticism is the same thing as religion, which could scarcely be coordinated with affective and collective forces as a fundamental psychological category. But in the application to present events M. LeBon treats the patriotism of all the belligerent countries ("patriotism is an inherited quality of a mystic . . . nature" (p. 306)) and "the hegemony ideal" in German as mystic forces. The only notion that seems to be consistently preserved throughout is that a mystical force is not rational. How it is distinguished from affective and collective forces does not appear at all. M. LeBon says of mysticism that it is "the source of the easy explanations which satisfied mankind for centuries" (p. 37). The carping critic is tempted to say of the "mystic force" that it is the easy explanation which satisfies M. LeBon.

RALPH BARTON PERRY.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

Standard Method of Testing Juvenile Mentality. NORBERT J. MELVILLE. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1917. Pp. xi + 142.

Announcement was made several months ago of a volume which would furnish "a provisional uniform method of applying the Binet-Simon tests as regards test order, details of administering and scoring each test, *etc.*" The present book is the laboratory manual embodying this method, which Director Melville and his assistants have worked out at the psychological laboratory of the Philadelphia school of pedagogy.

In the preparation of this manual there has been a definite attempt to follow as closely as possible the suggestions of the Informal Conference on Binet Testing held at Buffalo a few years ago. To describe the book briefly, one may say that it is a rather valuable elaboration and attempted standardization of the Binet-Simon tests as finally revised by their authors in 1911.

Part I. contains (*a*) certain general comments, warnings, and directions to be observed by those who use the Binet tests; (*b*) condensed translations of certain parts of the original publications of Binet and Simon, and (*c*) detailed explanations of how to enter results on the test record blanks prepared by Director Melville for recording the tests made on Philadelphia public-school pupils.

Part II. provides, in form convenient for use, all the printed materials necessary for the tests, and presents the detailed directions to be followed in administering each individual test and in evaluating the results. The typographical arrangement of this part of the book is such that the pictures and drawings appear on the page facing the subject being examined, while the directions for using these materials appear on the opposite page facing the examiner. The weighted cubes are the only materials difficult to obtain that are not incorporated in the book itself. This assembling of the test materials in a compact form, convenient for use, is in itself a distinct service to Binet test-users.

The general point of view of the author in the section devoted to comments and general directions is quite wholesome and worthy of consideration. The Binet tests are recognized as merely a "first aid" method of making tentative evaluations, which will be useful "in selecting and classifying those who are in need of further examination and of special education." The author recommends that for the future development of mental testing, "investigators strike out along new lines in the development of supplementary scales instead of attempting to make adaptations of the Binet scale."

Throughout the discussion, emphasis is placed upon the absolute necessity for uniformity of procedure. "This idea of radically altering the scale for subjects of different nationalities appears similar to the ideal of revising thermometer scales for various altitudes." In another connection we are warned that "the examiner must remember that ability to respond to standardized formulæ and questions without supplementary demonstration and explanation, forms one of the most important elements in the complex mental processes being tested throughout the scale." The author's plea seems to be for the general adoption of the Standard Method in all Binet tests, in order that a valid set of Binet norms may be built up for the various races and social groups of our population. Such uniformity of procedure in giving and scoring the tests is undoubtedly desirable, but it is doubtful whether the hundreds of Binet testers throughout the country will readily be persuaded to give up their own individual habits and prejudices in these matters.

M. R. TRABUE.